

IN THE CLAIMS

Applicant amends the claims as follows:

1-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Original) An intravascular stent having spiral-flow inducing properties.

34. (Previously amended) The stent according to claim 33, wherein the stent is an expansible mesh member which is inserted by catheterization in collapsed form and which becomes expanded on release from the catheter, the mesh member having an internal spiral formation after expansion.

35. (Previously amended) The stent according to claim 34, wherein the mesh member comprises wire extending helically around the periphery of the stent, and the internal spiral formation comprises a helical vane members attached to such wire.

36. (Previously amended) The intravascular stent according to claim 33, wherein the stent has a helical formation thereon to induce spiral flow and is adjustable.

37. (Previously amended) The intravascular stent according to claim 36, wherein the stent further comprises:

a rigid support; and

a spiral flow inducer vane mounted to and extending from the rigid support, the vane having an adjustable helix angle.

38-46. (Cancelled)

47. (Previously Added) An intravascular stent comprising:
an expandible tubular mesh member adapted to be inserted into and retained within a vein;

the mesh member having at least one vane stationarily attached to an interior thereof and extending helically to induce spiral flow of blood.

48. (Previously added) The stent according to claim 47, wherein the mesh member comprises a plurality of wires that extend helically and cross each other to form junctions.

49. (Previously added) The stent according to claim 33, wherein the stent comprises:
a rigid support rod;
a flexible sleeve mounted to the support rod;
a flexible helical vane mounted to the sleeve; and
wherein the sleeve is axially contractible on the support rod to vary an angle of the vane.

50. (Withdrawn) A method of inducing spiral flow of blood, comprising the steps of:
(a) inserting an intravascular stent into a vein, the stent having a helical flow inducer; and
(b) causing blood flow through the vein to flow past the inducer while the inducer is stationary, thereby inducing spiral flow of blood.

51. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 50, wherein step (a) comprises:
inserting the stent in a catheter while in a collapsed form; and
expanding the stent to lodge within the vein.

52. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 50, wherein the stent comprises an expandible tubular member having an interior and the helical flow inducer comprises a vane secured to an interior side wall of the tubular member and extending helically.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher D. Northcutt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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